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National News at a glance

by Robert N. Taylor

Farrakhan: Black Males Under Siege
 In America: Controversial Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan delivered one of his classic fiery messages at the University of Massachusetts this month. His basic theme: "The black male in America is under siege" and especially troubling was the "epidemic of violence of young black males against young black males." The Muslim leader was speaking to a sellout crowd of over 2,000. Outside, however, were protesting homosexual and Jewish groups. They were angry with what they charged were anti-gay and anti-Jewish statements made by Farrakhan and his former chief aide Khalid Abdul Muhammad. Despite sounding conciliatory at points, Farrakhan maintained his long-held position that the historic relationship of whites to blacks has been one of oppression, racism and violence. He spoke directly to whites saying, "Your history has been one of evil to the darker people." One participant labeled the speech "mesmerizing."
 —AMHERST, MA

Rap Group 2 Live Crew Wins Major Court Victory: In a major victory for the entertainment industry, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled recently that the raunchy 1989 parody of a popular 1960s song by the rap group 2 Live Crew may be a "fair use" as allowed by federal copyright law. The issue involved the Roy Orbison song "Oh, Pretty Woman" which 2 Live Crew parodied as "Two Luv" (sung by "Big Boy" and "Bald Headed Woman"). In a 9-0 decision the court held that even though the parody copied the beat of the original, and was somewhat X-rated, it did not necessarily violate copyright laws even though the song's owners had sued on those grounds. Comedians, parody artists and entertainment companies welcomed the ruling while artists and song writers who do not want their material parodied without compensation objected. The ruling was agreed with the court that parody is protected whether or not it is in good taste.
 —WASHINGTON, DC

Mandela Says "No" To White Homelands, Events Going His Way: Faced with potential violence from white racists and black conservatives, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela recently benefited from a couple of major victories in South Africa. First, he appeared to have at last temporarily calmed the bluff of white right-wingers who had vowed to establish a separate white nation. If Mandela is chosen the first black president of South Africa in elections scheduled for next month. He told the separatist whites that "There will never be a volkstaat (white homeland) in this country." Mandela was also the chief victor when first residents, and then members of the army forced the leader of the black homeland Bophuthatane to take part in next month's elections. The black homelands were established along tribal lines in the 1970s by the white government as a divide-and-rule tactic. Some of the black homeland "presidents" had joined with the white racists in refusing to participate in the elections. But recent violence in Bophuthatane put an end to the idea of separate black nations built around tribal groups.
 —SEKORORO, SOUTH AFRICA

Mike Tyson Loses Appeal But Maybe Out Of Jail Soon: Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson recently lost a bid to have his rape conviction reviewed and possibly overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. Tyson was convicted in 1992 of raping a beauty pageant contestant and he was given a six-year sentence. However, he could be out of jail by the end of this year because evidence helping to prove his innocence was not shared with the jury.
 —INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Black Congressman Craig Washington
 Loses Re-Election Bid: Black Congressman Craig Washington went down to defeat in his re-election bid earlier this month. He lost

(Continued on Page 10)

Mayor James addresses the state of American cities

WASHINGTON, DC—Today, nearly 3,000 local officials are assembled here in Washington to carry a message about difficult problems and important opportunities for America's cities and towns — and for our nation as a whole.

Our concerns touch upon issues and conditions that affect different communities in different ways. But they share some common elements that we have shaped into a five-point action agenda for the National League of Cities in 1994. The action agenda was adopted by the League's board of directors this weekend. It reflects recommendations received from hundreds of communities across the nation.

Some, like our number one concern — crime and violence — involve conditions that are most evident in our neighborhoods and communities...but which also have important national dimensions in terms of resources...as well as specific areas, such as drug policy.

Others, like our number two issue — unfunded federal mandates — focus on a national policy process that originates in Washington...but has its most pervasive and severe effects in our cities and towns.

The other three priorities on the NLC action agenda are jobs, the economy and infrastructure. All of these are issues that will shape the future of our nation. I would like to highlight a few points about each of these priorities and then respond to questions.

First, crime and violence must be attacked by strong steps to assure safety in our communities. We also need long-term solutions to address both the causes and effects of crime and violence.

In our own cities and towns, we are calling upon local officials to make anti-crime efforts a community-wide campaign...a campaign that taps the resources of individuals and neighborhoods as well as the cooperative efforts among

neighboring jurisdictions, public agencies and departments. We are all in this together, and we cannot let a single resource be neglected. Nor can we let a single act of crime go ignored or unpunished. We must make certain that every criminal knows that if you do the crime, you will do the time.

NLC also supports a strengthened federal anti-crime effort...an effort that includes both enforcement and prevention...that provides direct assistance to cities and towns to allow anti-crime funds to be used where they are most needed...that creates tougher controls on firearms, ammunition and firearms dealers...and that supports efforts to establish programs to protect and safeguard young people in our cities, in particular.

Next — unfunded mandates. This is a subject that unites local officials more closely than any other issue. Local citizens and taxpayers cannot expect to endure the barrage of costly and intrusive requirements that Washington wants us to carry out but doesn't want to pay for.

Last October we made an important breakthrough on National Unfunded Mandates Day. We are supporting specific legislation in Congress to address existing mandates — such as the Slatery-Bilely bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act.

This year we are increasing our efforts.



We also are supporting a comprehensive approach to curb future mandates with legislation that will assure practical and lasting relief.

And finally, the National League of Cities is taking the lead in organizing a National Unfunded Mandates WEEK in October, 1994.

to focus nationwide attention on this all-important issue prior to this year's congressional elections.

Jobs, the economy and infrastructure — these are the muscle and fiber of every community. We focus on these issues because they are essential to the well being of families, neighborhoods, cities, our nation, and our role in a global economy.

Local leaders want to be involved in shaping and carrying out the job training, re-employment and school-to-work programs that are so important to future of our communities.

We also support programs to increase investment opportunities in our local economies — through the Community Development Block Grant and the Community Reinvestment Act...through measures to restructure federal entitlement programs...and by working to reduce economic disparities and increase opportunities for cities in a global economy.

Finally, our cities and towns depend heavily upon the public works that enable our cities to function.

Along with the urgent need to maintain and upgrade our traditional systems of highways and utilities, our cities also need to be a basic part of the new telecommunications infrastructure.

To do these things, we need to improve the ability of cities to access the capital markets, and we need to assure our cities on an active role in shaping the information super-highway.

This is our agenda. These are the NLC priorities.

Today we are preparing ourselves for the meetings we will have on Capitol Hill tomorrow...and in our communities, with our citizens, when we return home.

(Continued on page 10)

Black publishers' president: 'Time for a wake up call'

In celebration of Black Press Month, Robert W. Bogle, President of Black Publishers Group says it time for Black Americans to Wake up from trance since the passage of the Civil Rights Act. "...black folk apparently saw the passage of the Civil Rights Act as a signal that they didn't have to shop in black stores anymore; they didn't have to buy their insurance from black insurance companies anymore; they didn't need Civil Rights organizations anymore and they didn't even have to read the black newspapers."

by H. Calvin Johnson

Washington, D.C.—Speaking before a packed house at the National Press Club, Robert W. Bogle, President of the National Newspaper Publishers' Association, said black America needs to wake up from the collective trance that they have slipped into since the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Indicating that membership in the organization has grown from 21 newspapers in 1940 to 204 in 1994, Bogle stated, "I'm proud that our member newspapers—in the aggregate—now reach about 10 million African-American readers each week. And that our collective circulation is greater than the daily circulation of USA Today, or the Wall Street Journal, and greater than the weekly circulation of Newsweek magazine." More importantly, he indicated "we continue to see no more effective way to reach African-Americans in print than through the pages of our black newspapers."

In celebration of Black Press week, Bogle told the audience of publishers and guests, that although the organization has a rich heritage they have not done a good job of informing America about the Black Press, itself.

To correct the problem a benchmark research study to track the progress of the organization from year to year was launched. Early responses to the study, show that over the past five years the staff size of Black Press has grown about 18 percent. Newspapers have, on average, three full-time reporters and about four freelance reporters or stringers. Administrative staff have grown by 25 percent. The majority of newspapers are published weekly and 15 percent of publishers

now print their own newspapers. Over the past five years, papers report a circulation increase of about 61 percent—from 16,400 to 26,400 per paper. Newspapers are progressive. More than one in five is considering a format change or some other improvement for their publication; including adding a wire service, changing their art, graphics and layout, adding color to their paper, increasing their frequency or computerizing their operations.

In spite of chronicling the achievements of Black Americans over the last 167 years,

DRUMS IN THE GUBBIAL VILLAGE

Sistas in charge: black press editors and publishers

People who influenced their lives

by Todd Burroughs

Marilyn Marshall was definitely on the journalism career fast track. After getting her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1975, she worked as a lifestyle section reporter—first for the *Austin American-Statesman*, then in *The Houston Post*, two mainstream daily newspapers. During most of the 1980s, she was an editor at *Ebony* magazine.

Marshall left *Ebony*—easily "la creme de la creme" of black journalism, with all the money, glamour, power and perks of being a national magazine—for *The Defender*, a lo-

cal black newspaper. "It was the hardest decision I've ever had to make," she said of the 1989 career move. Why would she do it?

She lists several reasons, among those being inspired by the history and example of the Black Press—a side-benefit of her *Ebony* tenure. "I am a graduate of the 'Lorraine Bennett School of History,'" said Marshall, referring to *Ebony* editor and historian Lorraine Bennett. Her example can be used to illustrate the power of having a positive example in one's life. In Marshall's case, it was *Ebony*.

In Jan Johnson's case, it was several people, including the late Ethel Payne, a black journalism legend who was called "The

(Continued on page 10)



Cooper leads U.S. delegation to Israel

EAST ORANGE—East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper will lead a delegation of ten U.S. mayors to the 14th Annual Jerusalem Conference of Mayors.

Cooper will be joined by Mayor J. Christian Bollwage of Elizabeth and mayors from Aurora, Illinois; Gary Indiana; North Little Rock, Arkansas; Hamden, Connecticut; Stockton, California; Boca Raton, Florida and Winston Salem, North Carolina.

According to Mayor Cooper he is extremely proud to represent the City of East Orange, the County of Essex and the State of New Jersey on this important mission to Jerusalem." He stated

"The exchange of information among international leaders at the forefront of change in cities worldwide is a major step in further developing world peace and understanding."

The conference, hosted by the Mayor of Jerusalem, will include 45 mayors from 30 nations who will participate in seminars and workshops, focusing on issues facing cities worldwide including international trade, urban economic development and technological changes.

Gerard Joab Receives Prudential Award

NEWARK—Gerard Joab, Executive Director of the Donald Jackson Neighborhood Corporation, recently received the prestigious Prudential Foundation Prize for Non-Profit Leadership. The award carries a non-restrictive \$10,000 grant to be used by the Donald Jackson Neighborhood Corporation.

"We're honoring individuals who through their work, have demonstrated vision, integrity, management ability, commitment and creative thinking," said Dorothy Light, Chairperson of the Prudential Foundation. "Their efforts make our neighborhoods, cities, and the country a better place for all of us."

"This award enables us to spotlight the achievements of some truly outstanding individuals and provide

additional resources to help fulfill their organizations' missions," said Peter Goldberg, President of the Prudential Foundation.

Mr. Joab was one of eight leaders of non-profit organizations from across the country who was honored with the award.

Joab, who serves as President of The Affordable Housing Network of New Jersey, was a participant at President Clinton's Little Rock "Urban Issues Summit." He served on the Advisory Committee of Center for Community Change and was Coordinator of the Newark Community Development Corporation Network.

The Donald Jackson Neighborhood Corporation was founded in 1987 in Newark, as an outgrowth of the Blessed Sacrament Church Community Outreach Program. The corporation's mission is to undertake community and spiritual development in the Clinton Hill neighborhood.

Against all odds and much negativity, the Donald Jackson Neighborhood Corporation has raised more than \$7 million to rehabilitate three abandoned buildings, Jackson Commons and Terrace Heights, providing affordable housing for low and moderate income members of the community. Future plans include a health clinic, day care center, rebuilding of the business community, and an extension of the Donald Jackson Neighborhood development to Clinton Hill's entire 83 block radius.



Gerard Joab, recipient of the Prudential Award

City News, the heartbeat of the city

UNB announces Plainfield promotions



Glen D. Stewart

PLAINFIELD—United National Bank, has recently announced the promotion of 19 officers at its Plainfield-based branches.

Elevated to the position of vice-president was Jay E. Castillo Manager, Scott W. Shropshire, Personal Credit Manager, Glen D. Stewart, Systems Department, and Ronald D. Wood, Trust Officer.



Scott W. Shropshire

Elected assistant vice-presidents were Mary M. Bente, Planning Analysis Officer, Patricia S. Buckelew, Trust Investment Officer, Nancy M. Eidle, Management of Information Systems, William E. Evans, Trust Officer at the Cobblebrook Office, Frank A. Ghiselli, Credit Manager, and Sherry L. Riley, manager of United National's Calton and Bunnvale



Ronald D. Wood

offices.

James F. Duffy and Kurt G. Talke were advanced to the rank of trust officer at United's Trust Department headquarters in Plainfield.

Appointed assistant cashiers were Maria J. Branco, Main Office Customer Service, Debra L. Hess, Assistant Branch Manager at the Farwood Office, Shirley J. Migliarese, Assis-



Jay E. Castillo

stant Branch Manager at the Branchburg Office, and Susan E. Nicholson, Assistant Branch Manager at the Netherwood Office.

Daniel W. Gieske was elected Mortgage Operations Officer, Barbara J. Lombardi was elected Operations Officer, and Bernadette B. Zinna was elected Transit Officer.

Middlesex County College to host 10th annual Hispanic youth conference

EDISON—The Hispanic Advisory Committee of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Middlesex County Inc. and the Hispanic American Club of Middlesex County College will hold their 10th annual conference on March 25.

This year's conference is entitled, "Hispanic Youth: Surviving the 21st Century." Key note address will be delivered by Essex County Surrogate, Maria Vizcarondo-De Soto.

The luncheon activity will include presentation of the Edward James Olmos Achievement Award. Workshops will focus on a variety of topics concerning Hispanic youth people, including media bias, higher education, teenage suicide and gang violence, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy. For additional information, please call 908-246-1450 or 906-2546.

Senator Ronald Rice to be honored by NJ Conferences of Mayors

SOUTH ORANGE—New Jersey State Senator and West Ward Councilman Ronald L. Rice will be honored by the New Jersey Conference of Mayors (NJCM) on Friday, March 25, 1994 at a special 1994 conference reception. Scheduled for 6 p.m., the event will take place at the Tropicana Casino & Entertainment Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. as part of NJCM's annual conference which will run from Thursday, March 24 through Saturday, March 26.

Senator Rice, who is Senate Deputy Assistant Minority Leader, along with five other honorees in the State Legislature, will be the recipient of the new "Legislators Award" which will be bestowed annually after this year.

According to Donald L. Fauerbach, Executive Director of NJCM, the purpose of this "distinguished" award is to recognize outstanding effort on the part of State Senators or Assembly members who have worked diligently to initiate and support legislation aimed at achieving goals which the New Jersey Conference of Mayors considers important to the betterment of life and services in municipalities throughout the State.

Rice and the other honorees—

Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco, Senator Robert W. Singer, Assemblyman Michael J. Arnone, Assemblyman Paul R. Kramer and Assemblyman William J. Pascrell, Jr. have been singled out by NJCM as legislators who most embody the spirit of "Structuring Partnerships for a Better New Jersey," the conference theme, through their legislative efforts to assist cities around the state. As a special guest at this reception, U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg will be in attendance to help bestow the honors.

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time to follow your dream, because now you can afford it.



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Community Calendar

NOW THRU APRIL 30

MADISON—Photography Exhibition by Paul Strand. Twenty hand carved photos from Strand's "Mexico Portfolio" of 1932-33. Located at the Friendship Library, Fairfield Dickinson School, 265 Madison Ave. Free and open to the public. Call 201-993-8532 for more information.

NOW THRU APRIL 5

PLAINFIELD—The Literacy Volunteers of America-Plainfield will host English language workshop for those who would like to learn. Plainfield Public Library, 8th St. and Park Ave. Every Tuesday night from 6-8 p.m. Free. Volunteers needed, you do not need to know a second language to train. For more information call 908-757-1111.

NOW THRU MARCH 26

JERSEY CITY—Quilting and portrait weaving at the Jersey City Museum. Sessions held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fee \$30, \$25 for museum members. For further information call 201-547-6380.

NOW THRU APRIL 21

SOMERVILLE—9th Biennial Exhibition Project. Sixty prints selected from hundreds of artists throughout the U.S. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tues - Fri, and 1-4 p.m. on Sat. Admission is free, for more info call 908-765-2110.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22-29

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Board of Education Meeting, Committee Discussion, 7 p.m., PHS Conference Room, Park Ave.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

UNION—21st Annual Information and Referral Seminar, 8:30 a.m. - 12 Noon at the Elizabethan Gas Company. Purpose is to update service providers on new programs and changes in aging services.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

PLAINFIELD—Used Maternity and children's clothes sale. Bargain prices and in excellent condition. The sale will be held at Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church, 716 watching Ave. from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday. For more information call 908-561-1751.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24-26

PATERSON—William Paterson College presents Illustration Pete Jensen, 8 p.m. at Hardier Theatre on campus. Admission is \$5, tickets may be purchased at the door. For additional information call 201-595-2866.

MARCH 25-26

PLAINFIELD—A Consignment and Garage Sale will be held by The First Unitarian Church, 724 Park Ave. Antiques, Jewelry, & Furniture. 9-4 Fri., 9-2 Sat.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

SOUTH PLAINFIELD—"The Complete Audition Workshop." 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Music Division of the School of Contemporary Dance and Theatre, 19 Hamilton Blvd. The class will give each student a DVD record sheet, record voice instruction & techniques, and much more. \$50 for total package, you must pre-register in advance. For further information call 908-757-7373.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

HACKENSACK—"Tapping the Hidden Job Market." Focuses on strategies to help you tap into job markets other than want ads. 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Bergen County Tech Schools, 280 Hackensack Ave. For more information please call 201-343-6000, ext. 293.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

PLAINFIELD—The Mother's Center Hosts Open House, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church, 716 Watching Ave. Children are welcome. The open house will provide an opportunity to meet Mother's Center members, learn more about the organization, and tour its facility. For more information call 908-561-1751.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

PATERSON—Recapitulating Community: The Oral Tradition and Contemporary Latino Writing. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. William Paterson College. \$5 admission, includes continental breakfast. For more information call 201-595-2906.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

NEWARK—"Let The Poet Speak." Edwin Drew of the African Poetry Theatre, and Mr. A.H. Reynolds of Ngoma's Gourd Inc. 6:30 p.m. at the Newark Public Library, in the James Brown African American Room. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call 201-733-7793 or 733-5411.

MONTCLAIR—"Native American Women: Issues of Gender and Culture." a lecture by Patricia Mayo, board member and historian of the NJ American Indian Center. This event will be held at Montclair State College. For more information call 201-655-4333.

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STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

Religious Calendar

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

DUNELLEN—Dunellen Methodist Church will sponsor its 11th Annual Spring Arts and Crafts Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch and refreshments available and a bako sale is planned. For more information call 908-752-7437.

NORTH PLAINFIELD—Pasta Dinner, hosted by the Presbyterian Women in the Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. Tickets on sale for \$6.50 adults, \$3.50 children, seedlings at 5:7 p.m. For more info call 908-757-4286.

ESSEX COUNTY—Benefit Dinner Dance, sponsored by St. Mary's Chapter No. 3, O.E.S. (for Women of Distinction).

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

METUCHEN—Rev. Ronald L. Owens of The New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen will celebrate his fourth anniversary as pastor. Rev. Owens morning message will be delivered at 11 a.m., Rev. Dr. Donald Hillard of the Cathedral, Second Baptist Church, of Perth Amboy will speak at the 4 p.m. service.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27-31

NORTH PLAINFIELD—Community Bible Study, 20 Grove St. Guest Preachers and choir: Rev. Charles Banks, Greater Harvest Baptist Church, Newark NJ. Rev. William G. Howard, Calvary Baptist Church, Plainfield NJ. Rev. Elijah Williams, Welcome Baptist Church, Newark NJ. Rev. Russell J. Fox, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Orange NJ. Rev. E. T. Byrd, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Newark NJ.

Send Religious Calendar events to:
City News
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Reverend Owens celebrates four years as pastor of

New Hope Baptist Church

METUCHEN—Reverend Ronald L. Owens, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen, will celebrate his fourth anniversary as pastor, on Sunday, March 27.

As a child Owens attended New Hope and became a deacon in the church as an adult and was later ordained through the church. He returned to New Hope in 1990 to become pastor.

The morning message will be delivered by Reverend Donald

Brown of Somerset at the 11 a.m. service. The message for the evening service will be delivered by Reverend Dr. Donald Hillard of the Cathedral, Second Baptist Church of Perth Amboy.

The pre-anniversary celebration began on March 22 and will run through Friday, March 25, and features pastors from churches across New Jersey. For further information on anniversary events please call 908-549-8941.

As I see it

(Continued from page 4)

ride from now 'til May 10th.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) N.J., fired State Senator Wynona Lipman at the Priory Restaurant in Newark on the observance of her 20 years as a state legislator.

It was a proper and fitting tribute to our first and once again only woman State Senator when the voters in the 29th legislative district in Newark kept returning to office with gratitude for service to her constituents in the districts and throughout the state.

Surviving the old boys network in Trenton, Essex County and Newark has not always been easy for the soft-spoken Lady Senator. If the truth be known, many roadblocks, backbiting secret meetings and a variety of political tricks have plagued Whitman's long and illustrious political career.

But for two decades Senator Lipman has done exactly what her constituents

elect her to do and stands tall in the ranks of legislators who "bring home the bacon" for the people she serves: women, children and minorities. She has also developed reams of legislation benefiting New Jerseyans regardless of gender, race, age or political preference.

Through 20 years of trial and error; fulfillment and disappointment, joy and sorrow, criticism and praise and often as the only woman in the State Senate, Wynona Lipman has been a beacon of hope for the most powerless people in the state.

We deserve to award her as she begins another decade of service and we need to remember for the contributions she has made to improve the quality of life in our state. Most of all she deserves to be applauded for proving to all of us that more often than not, "courage is the better part of valor."

Marvis Martin to perform at Fountain Baptist Church

SUMMIT—Fountain Baptist Church presents, in concert, the internationally renowned soprano Marvis Martin. The concert will be held on Saturday, March 26, 5 p.m. at the Summit Middle School Auditorium. Reserve seating ticket prices are \$15 and \$20. Tickets may be purchased by mail or at the church daily from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. (check or money order). The church is located at 116 Glenside Ave. Summit, NJ 07901.

Marvis Martin has circled the world captivating audiences with her extraordinary vocal tone and stage presence. From New York to Los Angeles, Paris to Amsterdam, Marvis Martin has found her gift unselfishly to the most demanding audiences. This concert is being sponsored by the Fountain Baptist Church family in appreciation of Pastor Rev. Jerry M. Sanders.

An evening of Jazz

NEW YORK—"An Evening So Hot, It's Cool" is the theme of the jazz concert sponsored by Spence-Chapin and the African-American Adoptive Parent's Advisory Committee at Saint Peter's Church (The Jazz Church), 619 Lexington Avenue in Manhattan.

The concert will be held on

Saturday, April 9, at 8 p.m., with a pre-concert reception at 7 p.m. Featured performers: Roy Ayers Ubiquity, internationally-known jazz artists. Proceeds will benefit the African-American Adoption Fund. Tickets range from \$45 - \$250. For reservations and information, call 212 369-0300.

Nurses invited to education program on tuberculosis

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange Veterans Affairs Medical Center is hosting an education conference for nurses entitled, "Tuberculosis Update: Combating the Resurgence of an Old Scourge" on Friday, March 25. Participants will receive 5.8 contact hours approved by NTSNA. The full day conference goals include updating nursing knowledge of tuberculosis, evaluating the impact of HIV on tuberculosis, understanding etiology of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, identifying principles in con-

tact investigations, improving compliance rates and preventive therapy among patients, briefing on the role of the New Jersey State Department of Health, an overview of administrative and engineering controls for decreasing tuberculosis exposure in medical care facilities, and accurate Mantoux tuberculin testing procedures. There will be a \$6.25 charge to cover lunch and breaks. For more information please call Sonya Thompson at 201-676-1000 extension 1695.

Health Calendar

EVERY MONDAY

EDISON—"Chemical Dependency Family Education." It is currently being offered from 7 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by the JFK Center for Drug & Alcohol Prevention & Treatment. The CDAPT office at 1182 St. George Ave. For more information call 908-634-7910.

MARCH 24 - APRIL 21

PLAINFIELD—"Diabetes: You're In Control." 7-9 p.m. Thursday evenings. The course is offered for persons with Type I and II diabetes and covers research updates, weight control, exercise, and more. For more information call 908-668-2575. Pre-registration is required.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

NEWARK—The Lupus Foundation of New Jersey will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. at the United Hospitals, 15 So. 9th St. An open forum is scheduled for that night, followed by a Q&A period and group discussion. For more information call 201-781-7868.

NEWARK—"Phobias and Panic Attacks." Free educational program on how to deal with anxiety and phobias. The program starts at 12 noon, at the NJ Medical School Doctor's Office Center, Suite 7600, 90 Bergen St. RSVP: Linda Willey, B.S.N., R.N. 1-800-982-3627.

Send Health Calendar events to:
City News

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SPEAKERS: Ernesto Amaranto, M.D. Mario Finkelstein, M.D. UMID-New Jersey Medical School Dept. of Psychiatry
RSVP: Please call Linda Willey, B.S.N., R.N. toll-free at 1-800-982-DOCS (1-800-982-3627)

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THURSDAY, MARCH 24-25

NEW YORK CITY—"Disco Party." Featuring The Village People, The Trammps, Evelyn Champagne King, and more! 8 p.m. at The Paramount, 7th Ave. at 32nd St. For ticket information call Ticketmaster at 212-357-7171.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

MADISON—Carol Churchill's "Top Girls," a multidimensional feminist comedy which concerns itself with women and their relationships with life and men. Dreyfuss Theatre, Fairleigh Dickinson University, 285 Madison Ave. 8:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 p.m., Sunday 2:30 p.m. Call 201-593-8661 for more information.

MARCH 31 - APRIL 1

WESTBURY NY—The O'Jays, Whippers, & Levert in two 4 hour concert events. 8 p.m. at Westbury Music Fair. Call 516-334-0800 for tickets.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

WESTBURY NY—Westbury Music Fair presents The Stylistics, The Dramatics, and The Chi-Lites. For further information call 516-334-0800.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1-2

NEW YORK CITY—Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Wynton Marsalis' new jazz commission at Alice Tully Hall. Starts at 8 p.m., guest vocalist Jon Hendricks and Cassandra Wilson. For tickets and information on upcoming events call 212-721-8500.

Send Billboard events to
City News
144 North Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Grandmother tells gangsta rappers 'clean up your acts'



Grandmother Vivian Smallwood advise rappers to change negative lyrics. photo by: Bernice Greene

LOS ANGELES—Sixty-one-year-old Vivian Smallwood a.k.a. "the Rappin' Granny" has joined in the effort to help clean up the lyrics of gangsta rappers. Vivian, who won the title of "grandmother of the year" in Pasadena in 1988, says that she became aware of the negative rap when she was cleaning one of her grand children's room. She came across a pile of rap tapes, and being a rapper herself she decided to see what her competition was like.

After only two minutes of listening to the tape she could not believe her ears. "It blew my mind when I heard what they were rapping about on the tape, calling women all sorts of degrading names, and doing drive by's and 187's (police term for homicide) on their fellow man. These type of rappers are not only disrespecting their girlfriends, they are also disrespecting their mothers and grandmothers as well, and some of these same gangsta rappers may have been raised by their grandmothers in a

single parent home."

According to Smallwood's manager Tim Greene who's also a Los Angeles radio personality stated, "even radio station KJLH is doing its part by playing only edit versions of certain rap songs."

Ms. Smallwood has much love for all rappers, but wishes that they would think about what they are rapping about because it could not only influence young kids that they know, but kids all over the world into a life of crime and disrespect. Rappin' granny is so serious about the gangsta rap issue that she will challenge any gangsta rapper. To the stage to show them that you can still get a large crowd hype without all of that bad language.

Rappin' Granny has been featured in interviews on gangsta rap for CNN News, *Inside Edition*, and NBC's *Today Show*. She has also prepared a public service TV commercial for M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

"Our task as the oldest Black organization is to address the needs of our youngest constituents."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
Executive Director
National Association for the
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Through the new leadership of Dr. Chavis, the NAACP is now making the needs of young people a priority. It's the organization's mission to ensure the future of Black America by giving our youth the atten-

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News at a glance

(Continued from page 1)

to Houston councilwoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Lee, who is also black, won by a surprising 65 percent to 37 percent. Washington had been troubled by financial problems and had missed a large number of congressional votes. He was first elected in 1989.—HOUSTON, TEXAS

Bermuda To Seek Independence From Britain: Bermuda—the predominantly black tourist island off the east coast—appears ready to declare its independence from Britain. Premier John Swan told Queen Elizabeth during a recent state dinner, "we must face taking the responsibility for our future by ourselves. I believe we are equal to the task." Bermuda has about 60,000 residents of whom about 70 percent are black. The island has been a British colony for nearly 400 years. But Swan is only the second black to head the island.—HAMILTON, BERMUDA

Philadelphia Said To Reflect Urban Violence Trend: A report in the Journal of the American Medical Association says low income Philadelphia residents are far more likely to be victims of violent crime than other residents of the city. According to the report, there was a 179 percent jump in injuries from firearms in the

city just between 1987 to 1990. Experts say a similar violence trend is occurring among low-income residents in inner cities throughout the nation. The violence is hitting men hardest. The study found that men (mostly low income blacks) are 7.5 times more likely to be a victim of violence than women. Commenting on the report John Sugarmann of the Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C. said, "We have reason to be shocked but no reason to be surprised. It shows how certain segments of society are paying the price day in and day out."—

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Massive Black Class Action Suit To Be Filed: A federal judge recently cleared the way for what may be the largest class-action discrimination lawsuit ever filed against the federal government. Judge Jane Goodman ruled that 550 current and former black employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service "may have systematically been denied promotions and training." The case must now work its way back through the lower courts.—

WASHINGTON, DC

Sistas in charge

(Continued from page 1)

First Lady of the Black Press: Payne—one of the first black White House correspondents, a black press newspaper columnist and a CBS radio commentator—died at age 79 in 1991. Payne's many protégés include Dorothy Gilliam, a Washington Post columnist, who is president of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Johnson also credits past national Delta sorority president Hortense Canady—who befriended her while she was living in Michigan—as a source of great encouragement in her life

Brenda Hughes Andrews, president and publisher of the new Norfolk Journal and Guide, said besides 19th century abolitionist leader Harriet Tubman, her role models were civil rights activists she saw (and joined) in

action while growing up.

Andrews also deserves to be called a civil rights activist and a role model. She and three other black students were responsible for integrating Glass High School in Lynchburg, Virginia in the fall of 1963.

Floestine Pursell, managing editor of Emerge magazine, said she didn't have many role models when starting in the business. But, she grew up reading Lucile Bluford, now Kansas City Call editor-publisher.

Bluford listed as role models the late Chester Arthur Franklin, founder of The Call, and the late Roy Wilkins, a former Call reporter, as inspirations. Wilkins, as many now know, went on to replace W.E.B. Du Bois as editor of the Crisis magazine—the official organ of the NAACP—

State of the cities

(Continued from page 1)

We will also be taking these issues to the White House for a meeting between our officers and President Clinton on Wednesday. We commend the President for the initiatives he has taken on many of these issues, and we hope to gain additional support for them in Congress, as well.

Wake up

(Continued from page 1)

indicated about 33 percent of the 28 million African Americans were living below the poverty level. Unemployment doubled that of whites, and at least 50 percent of black teenagers are unable to find jobs.

Most disturbing, according to Bogle is the fact that black Americans constitute 12 percent of the population and spend nearly \$300 billion annually, and yet only spend 7 percent of that money with businesses owned by African-Americans. According to Bogle, "black folk apparently saw the passage of the Civil Rights Act as a signal that they didn't have to shop in black stores anymore; they didn't have to buy their insurance from black insurance companies anymore; they didn't need Civil Rights organizations anymore and they didn't even have to read the black newspapers."

He concluded, "we are in need of a wake-up call in black America

and eventually became the NAACP's executive director. "I never thought about role models," said Bluford: "We didn't use that term back then." Perhaps, we didn't need them back then. But, we do need them now.

In journalism, I think the five women mentioned in this column fit that bill very easily.

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